



June 29, 2021

Thank you for your letter dated June 22, 2021. I understand the concerns you raised regarding encampments in the District, specifically those located in the park at 2<sup>nd</sup> and D Street NE on National Park Service Property and in NoMa on L and M St. NE.

I can assure you that addressing homelessness is a top priority for this administration. The Mayor included historic investments in her FY22 budget to address single adult homelessness, which we know is how we make meaningful, long-lasting change to the encampment landscape. With this \$35 million investment, the Department of Human Services will provide significant investments in Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) with 137 PSH units for individuals, 170 PSH units for families, and 10 PSH units for youth. This investment also includes prevention, diversion, and outreach services.

We know that making these substantial investments takes time. In the interim, we're working closely with agencies on immediate strategies to address issues at encampments, such as increased, dedicated outreach and substance use support integrated directly into encampments and encampment-specific trash routes to better mitigate trash.

Regarding the encampments on L and M St. NE in NoMa, my team, as well as the Department of Behavioral Health, the Department of Human Services, and Pathways to Housing, provides outreach services to this site multiple times a week to provide resources and supports. My team conducted a full cleanup on in NoMa on May 13 which also included laying rodent traps and power washing the sidewalks. We will continue to monitor this site and schedule additional cleanups, as needed.

Regarding the encampment on 2<sup>nd</sup> and D St. NE, my team has been in contact with the National Park Service on several occasions regarding this park and the encampments located inside of it. While the District has a protocol that we follow for the cleanup of encampments on public space across the city, we are unable to conduct cleanups on federal property. The National Park Service has a team that conducts cleanups on their spaces and will have to decide if/when to conduct a cleanup at this location. We do work in close partnership with the National Park Service and have been conducting outreach services at this location as well and removing trash on a weekly basis. We will continue to provide these services to the residents that reside there and do everything we can to help move them into safer, more permanent housing or shelter.

For more information on our protocol and how our cleanup process works, you can visit [dmhhs.dc.gov](https://dmhhs.dc.gov). If you have further questions or concerns feel free to reach out to our Encampment Response Team operated out of the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services at [encampment.reports@dc.gov](mailto:encampment.reports@dc.gov). Thank you.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wayne". The signature is stylized with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Wayne Turnage  
Deputy Mayor, Health and Human Services